

Partial Christmas eclipse

The heavy black line marks the path of the annular eclipse of the sun on Dec. 24, 1973. The dashes mark the area where that partial eclipse will be visible. The path begins at sunrise in the Pacific Ocean and will be reaching the Atlantic Ocean just north of Belem before ending up in Algeria about sunset. (AP Wirephoto)

Hughes doesn't fear prosecution, aide says

FREEMONT, Bahamas (AP) — A spokesman for billionaire Howard Hughes said Saturday it is ridiculous to suggest that Hughes had left London in order to avoid possible prosecution in the United States.

Richard Hannah, who lives in Los Angeles, said he knew Hughes had left his London hideout, but did not know where he had gone. Hughes reportedly has taken up residence in a hotel in the Bahamas.

Hannah said "there can be no sane reason to even think about any indictment of Mr. Hughes." He said reports to that effect, or that Hughes might be seeking to avoid extradition, "sounds like the desperate propaganda of someone who has a giant, personal axe to grind."

Hughes reportedly arrived in the Bahamas Thursday and took up residence in the Xanadu Hotel, a casino reportedly owned by Daniel K. Ludwig, another publicity-shy billionaire.

Hughes' arrival, if it occurred, comes only two weeks after another international financier avoided extradition to the United States, and as a portion of his financial empire is under federal investigation.

U.S. Attorney J. DeVoe Heaton confirmed that a federal grand jury in Las Vegas is looking into Hughes' 1970 acquisition of Air West, a small feeder

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Congress

Continued From Page 1

Defense Production Act, giving the President sweeping powers in the event of a national emergency.

Nixon already has authority under the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act to distribute scarce fuels so that no section of the country or the economy is unfairly hit by the crisis. And the Economic Stabilization Act gives him the means of controlling prices in a manner that would encourage the production of some fuels, such as home heating oil, at the expense of others, such as gasoline.

The principal question remains as to exactly what powers the administration would have to police such voluntary conservation measures as the 10-gallon per sale gasoline limit ordered by federal energy chief William E. Simon. When he announced that plan on Thursday, Simon said he would make it mandatory as soon as Congress passed an energy bill.

In his statement, Nixon said he hoped new legislation in January will be fair and effective "and that we can work toward this in a spirit of constructive cooperation between the political parties and between the executive and legislative branches."

Jackson told newsmen that he expects that the Senate will take up the original bill rather than the temporary measure that was dropped on Friday.

In addition to clearing the way for rationing and mandatory conservation, the far-reaching bill would grant clean air waivers so power plants could switch from scarce petroleum and natural gas to coal. Under the bill automakers would be held to the 1975 emission standards but any further exhaust clean up would be suspended for one and possibly two years.

The bill also would:

- Provide \$500 million in unemployment compensation benefits during the current fiscal year to people who lose their jobs as a result of the energy crisis;
- And grant limited antitrust exemptions to the petroleum industry.

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Graham...

Continued From Page 1

However, he said "the mass of information and contradiction is so confusing that I cannot make a fair judgment at this time except to say that apparently someone has committed perjury."

However, he added that in America any person is "presumed innocent until proved guilty. As far as I know, the President has not been formally charged with a crime. Mistakes and blunders have been made. Some of them involved moral and ethical questions."

Graham said concerning the President's income tax return, "I must say I was surprised at the small amount he reported giving to charities in relation to his total income."

However, the evangelist added "there may be some other explanation." "Since the President's financial bookkeeping and contributions were handled by others."

Graham said they had set a bad example in having the government pay for various improvements on the President's real estate.

"He had some very bad advice," Graham said. "The General Accounting Office says 'too casual an attitude prevailed.' 'Apparently that was right. It seems to me some of these expenses ought to have been called personal.'"

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Israeli election likely to be hot

JERUSALEM (AP) —With one eye on the Geneva peace talks and the other on their pocketbooks Israelis vote on New Year's Eve in what could be the most hotly contested election in the Jewish state's 25-year history.

Premier Golda Meir seems bound to win another four years in office, but Israelis expect to see new faces in her government. The election is for a new 120-seat Knesset —parliament —and the strongest party chooses the premier.

Israeli setbacks at the outset of the Middle East war and charges by disgruntled generals that neither the government nor the high command was ready for the fight are expected to cost Mrs. Meir's Labor group many ballots and shift the voting to unpredictable new patterns.

Public anger has been directed at Mrs. Meir's defense minister, Moshe Dayan, who took the brunt of the blame for Israel's initial losses in the war. But Mrs. Meir herself, who scored 80 per cent in popularity polls before the war, also has become a target for allegedly surrendering to American pressures.

Many voters oppose Israel's acceptance of the cease-fire. And many consider that Mrs. Meir's government accepted disadvantageous conditions for the Geneva peace conference. The premier has made it clear that her decisions were influenced by American urgings and United States arms supplies.

The first phase of the Geneva talks closed Saturday and it will be the new government carrying Israel's banner into the second phase of the beginning of the new year. The election campaign indicates Israelis are sharply divided on what positions Israel should take when the negotiations resume.

Mrs. Meir argues that Israel should be prepared to return much of the 26,000 square miles of Arab territory won in the 1967 war, and keep only strategic areas essential for security.

Others insist that most of the territories, excluding the vast Sinai Desert, are part of the Biblical "Land of Israel," and belong to the Jewish nation.

Peace talk fills the election posters, but another issue is big in the voters' minds —money.

Inflation was soaring skyward at about 4 per cent a month before the war and has leaped higher since. Some organizations estimate the Israeli cost of living has doubled in the past two years.

Many blame Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir's Socialistic economic policy for much of the problem. The right, charging "economic insanity," says the only way to save Israel from bankruptcy is more free enterprise, less government control and less state industry.

Polls show more undecided voters than in any previous election, with about

House's impeachment study is low-key

WASHINGTON (AP) —The inquiry by the House Judiciary Committee into the possible impeachment of President Nixon will be done with a minimum of publicity, Rep. Robert Kastenmeier, D-Wis., said recently.

"Most of what the committee has been doing and will be doing will not have great visibility," he said.

"People will be disappointed if they expect to see a three-ring circus or even something like the Ervin (Senate Watergate) committee."

Kastenmeier said, after the committee met to discuss procedures, that the actual inquiry will be conducted in a manner similar to a grand jury investigation, in which testimony and evidence are collected in secret.

He said the House panel's impeachment-staff, headed by Madison, Wis., attorney Richard Cates, has already spent hours collecting information.

a third of the 2,037,171 eligible voters unsure. The voting age dropped from 21 to 18 this year and official figures say 17,475 young people, most of them in uniform, will be voting for the first time.

The debate on how to settle with the Arabs and how to improve the country's economy resolves around the three main groups. Together they control about 90 per cent of the 120-seat legislature.

Heading the list is Mrs. Meir's Labor alignment, a merger of three Socialist factions and the semi-independent Marxist Mapam party. Labor parties have dominated every election since the first in 1949, but have never won an absolute majority. Every government so far has been a coalition.

The traditional runner-up has been the center-right, led by Menachem Begin, a former terrorist in old British mandate Palestine. Begin heads the Likud —Rally —bloc of four newly merged parties.

With Labor and the right splitting most of the votes, the balance of power traditionally falls to the religious parties, which stand for close alliance of synagogue and state.

Thieves won't burn painting, accept ransom

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) —Art thieves who threatened to burn a 16th century Rembrandt painting stolen from a museum agreed Saturday night to accept a ransom of \$100,000 and return the painting, an intermediary said.

A real estate broker and bar owner who has served as intermediary among the thieves, police and a Cincinnati museum said the painting was safe.

James Hough, 36, the intermediary, said museum officials were in his office with \$100,000 in cash and were awaiting further instructions from the thieves, who originally demanded \$200,000.

John Warrington, president of the Taft Museum, said earlier Saturday that a tentative ransom agreement had been reached.

The painting, entitled "Man Leaning on a Sill," was one of two Rembrandts stolen from the museum Tuesday morning by two masked men who overpowered a guard.

Rationing...

Continued From Page 1

Rationing may become necessary as a last resort; if rationing is needed, it will probably be needed by spring; and if it is needed by spring, it must be set up starting now.

Within eight days, the President is to announce a decision.

If he orders creation of a rationing system, then finds out it need not be used, little is lost; but if he refuses to set up a rationing system, then learns too late it is necessary, the result could be economic, social and political disaster.

All three energy officials were asked whether that choice did not seem to point clearly toward a standby rationing system as the likely decision.

Simon, who says his policy is based on preparing for the worst, replied, "You can compare the options and draw your own conclusions."

Said Sawhill, "You figure it out."

Hill, seeming to agree, said: "Your logic is good." But Hill added that even he did not know what Simon finally would recommend.

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\$1 million malpractice award OK'd

NEW YORK (AP) — A merchant seaman who entered a hospital for minor eye surgery and emerged a blind quadriplegic has won an award of \$1 million in the largest malpractice suit ever filed against the federal government.

William Fertig, 22, agreed Friday to the settlement, which allows \$650,000 of the award to revert to the government after his death.

Congress and the United States attorney general must approve the award.

An 11th-grade dropout from Franklinville, N.J., Fertig was a fireman on a freighter carrying ammunition to Vietnam.

In 1969, he entered the Staten Island Public Health Service Hospital for surgery on a weak eye muscle.

However, a student nurse did not monitor Fertig's allergic reaction to an anesthetic, and he was blinded and paralyzed.

Fertig's father had sued the government for \$5 million in damages, but U.S. Magistrate Max Schiffman worked out a compromise approved by federal Judge Jack Weinstein.

Fertig lay on an ambulance bed in Weinstein's courtroom Friday as the terms of the settlement were read.

When the judge finished and asked Fertig if he agreed to the terms, the quadriplegic made a kissing sound that his mother explained was his way of saying yes.

Under the agreement, the government will pay Fertig's parents \$150,000 and his attorneys \$200,000.

The remaining \$650,000 would be put into a trust fund of nontaxable bonds.

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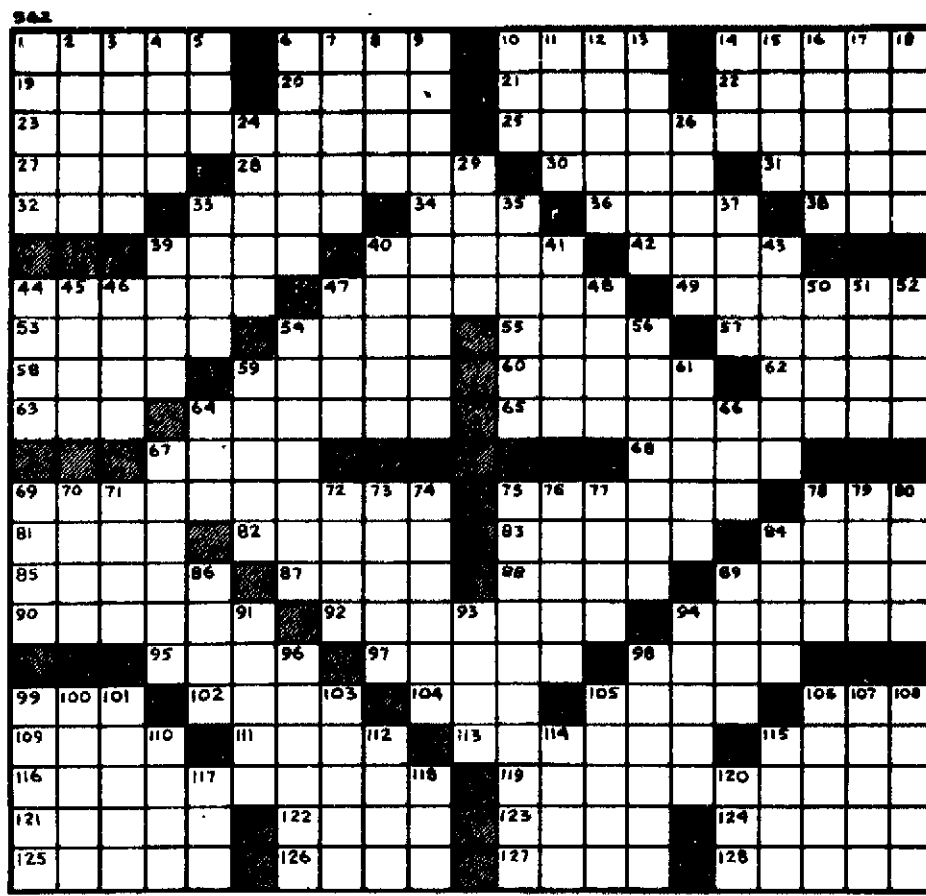
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By JO PAQUIN

- ACROSS
1. It follows part or conti
6. Mice of massowite
10. Hard fat
14. Band-leader Fields, et al.
19. Genus of grasses
20. Diva's forte
21. Church part
22. One of the arts
23. — State: Colorado
25. Native Nebraska
27. Scottish Gaelic
28. Bloodless
30. Anatomical swelling
31. Bristle
32. Sainte (abbr.)
33. Russian city
34. In favor of
35. Kind of note
38. Aries
39. Cook in cream (var.)
40. Golf cries
42. Spiny-tailed lizards
44. French city
47. Evening love songs
49. A miser
53. Juan's friend
54. Flower-leaf plant
55. Asam
57. Means of livelihood
58. Tolerable
59. Oleoresin
60. Religious dissenter
62. Crocus
63. Viper
64. Russian peninsula
65. North Dakota
67. To blow
68. Covers
69. Delaware
75. Begs
78. To dip
81. — fix
82. Uncanny
83. Terre—
84. "Adam
85. Godhead
87. Trans-action
88. Monster
89. The whole jury
90. Talks back
92. Awns
94. Sincere
95. Ancient Greek country
97. —
98. Rake
99. Xenon
100. Sign in mathematics
104. Joke
105. Huge
106. Recede
109. Poker stake
111. The sweetsop
113. European sea bream
116. Single
118. Georgia
119. Hawaii
121. The choice part
122. Olive genus
123. Word with Star or vault
124. Assesses
125. Goat antelope
126. Snug retreat
127. Listen
128. Lean-tos
DOWN
1. Heavy staffs
2. Turn inside out
3. Taut
4. Grafted (Her.)
5. Scottish explorer
6. Sixpence (Eng. slang)
7. Inner satellite of Uranus
8. O'Flaherty
9. The Golden State
10. American Indian
11. Atop
12. Biblical name
13. Ministered to
14. U. in Dallas, Texas
15. Religious reformer
16. Narrow ridge
17. Michael-angelo work
18. Get lost!
24. A nostril
26. Virile one
29. Center
33. The Buck-eye State
35. Regenerates
37. Mortuary roll
39. Edible starch
40. Farm (Hist.)
41. Abram's wife
42. Nautical spars
44. Spanish house
45. Minor prophet
46. Speech defect
47. Appear
48. Farm building
49. Amazon estuary
51. Work on copy desk
52. Put in order (dial.)
54. Flickered
56. Flatter servilely
59. Appearing gnawed
61. Compound of oxygen
64. Small bed
66. Campus org.
67. African fly
69. Support pins
70. Inventor's need
71. Former Brazilian coins
72. Scope
73. Coronet
74. Fishing for lampreys
75. Snapshot
76. Goods sunk with buoy
77. French river
78. Sandy, seaside tract
79. Caesar's fateful date
80. Zone
84. Poison
86. Shriek
89. Fresh-water catfish
91. Compan-los of Paul
92. Hasty attempt
94. Book of the Bible
96. County in Texas
98. Slice of bacon
99. Yawns (archaic)
100. Anoint
101. A step
102. Common-place
105. Stringed instrument
106. Growing out
107. Moderated
108. Pronounce holy
110. External: comb. form
112. See 111
114. Medicinal plant
115. The Bee-hive State
117. Chop
118. Devour
120. Upper-classmen (abbr.)

Average time of solution: 67 minutes



Answers on Page A-4

Some good in forest fires

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — Forestry experts have come up with a good word for Smoky the Bear's old enemy. A forest fire is sometimes a good thing, they say.

A study by park service scientists has shown fire cleans the forest, prepares seedbeds, releases plant nutrients, adjusts the succession of plant growth and influences wildlife.

So when lightning triggers a fire anywhere in the "let it burn" areas of Sequoia, Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks, rangers will do nothing but watch unless ordered to fight the blaze by a special committee. The area covers about a million acres in the three central California retreats.

"Formerly we had a policy of aggressively suppressing all fires," said Robert Smith, chief ranger at Sequoia National Park. "But we realized the scenery we were trying to protect had evolved as a result of natural fires."

"The big trees that are the reason this park was founded are a result of fire, and they are dependent on fire to remove other types of competitive trees. Sequoia seeds depend on fire to burn off the accumulation of needles and debris so they can reach the soil," Smith explained.

"Fire is the means by which nature

provides for what we have now," he said.

About 70 per cent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks — most of it above the 9,000 foot level — is included in the free burn area. Smith said the rest of the park cannot be included yet because there is still too much fuel lying around.

"If we let natural fires burn in the rest of the park, the chance of a conflagration would be too great," Smith said. "But with controlled burns, we are gradually getting rid of the pile-up of fuel."

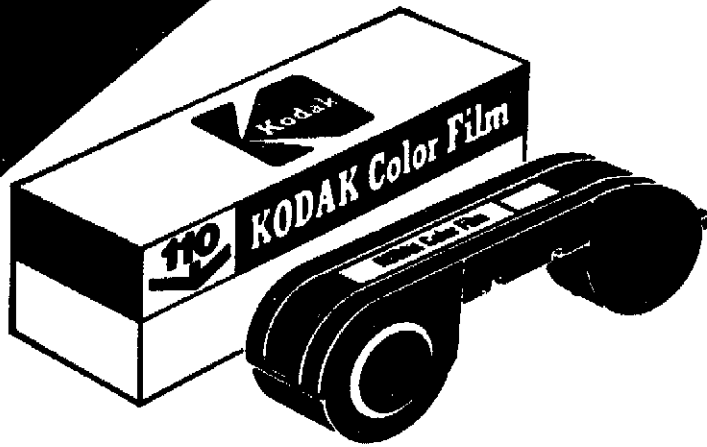
But the policy in the three parks is very specific regarding the real fire problem — man. All man-caused fires are suppressed, Smith said.

Since the "let-it-burn" policy began in 1968, some 80 naturally caused fires have been reported. All but 10 burned less than 10 acres. The largest charred 2,486 acres.

When a natural fire is burning, it is observed several times a day from the air, Smith said. If it appears to be spreading out of the burn area, crews can be sent to herd it back in the right direction.

Aside from the benefits to plant and animal life, there is a financial side-effect. Officials say it costs \$1.78 an acre to watch a fire burn — but thousands of dollars must be spent to put out a forest fire.

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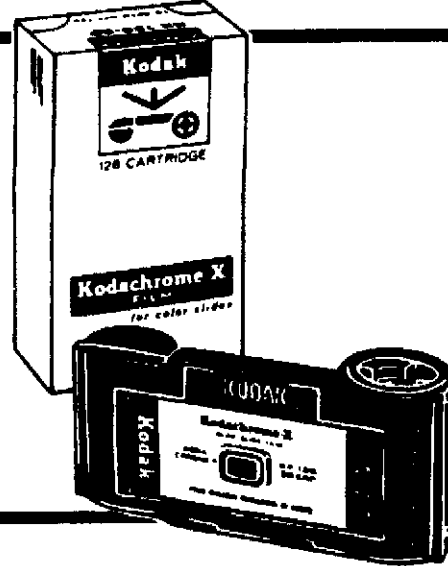
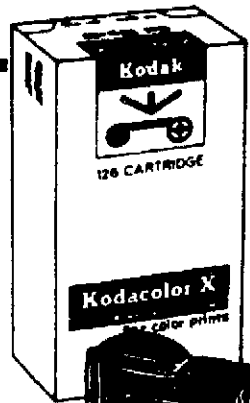
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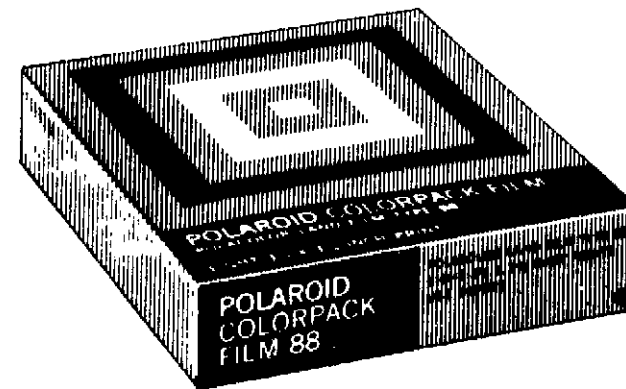
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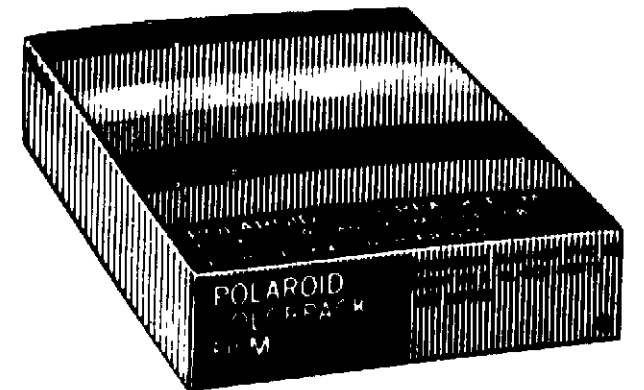
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